

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 /065 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5412

INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 0441

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, BL

SUBJ: STRENGTHENED POLITICAL POSITION OF THE GOB

REF: LA PAZ 350

1. CAPTURE OF EXILED MNRI CHIEF AND FORMER BOLIVIAN PRESIDENT HERNAN SILES ZUAZO, WHO HAD RE-ENTERED BOLIVIA CLANDESTINELY, AND ARREST OF SEVEN OF HIS ASSOCIATES, HAS DEFINITELY EXPOSED LEFTIST PLOTTING AGAINST BANZER REGIME. ARRESTS HAVE THEREBY HELPED REESTABLISH SOME DEGREE OF GOB CREDIBILITY, AND PROBABLY HAS RECOVERED FOR THE REGIME SOME OF THE STRENGTH IT HAD LOST JUST PRIOR TO THE IMMINENT ANNOUNCEMENT IN EARLY JANUARY OF AN "ECONOMIC PACKAGE".

2. ACCORDING TO INTERIOR MINISTER'S STATEMENT TO PRESS, SILES WILL BE DEPORTED IN A FEW DAYS. MINISTER ALSO NOTED THAT ROBERTO JORDAN PANDO, EX-MINISTER OF PLANNING UNDER PAZ ESTENSORRO WHO SUBSEQUENTLY BECAME SUPPORTER OF SILES, HAD HELPED ORGANIZE LEFTIST OPPOSITION AND WAS AIDED IN THIS TASK BY HIS ABILITY TO TRAVEL FREELY UNDER HIS UNITED NATIONS DIPOMATIC PASSPORT. MINISTER OF INTERIOR SAID GOB WOULD MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO U.N. REGARD-
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ING JORDAN, WHOSE BROTHER RENE WAS ONE OF SEVEN

INDIVIDUALS ARRESTED ALONG WITH SILES.

3. STRIKE AT TWO MAJOR COMIBOL MINES CONTINUES,
AS DOES CHURCH CAUCUS ON WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE
CLOSING OF RADIO PIO XII IN THE MINING SECTOR.
HOWEVER, IN THE ABSENCE OF A UNIFYING ISSUE SUCH
AS AN "ECONOMIC PACKAGE", IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE
STRIKES WILL SPREAD OR THAT SOME OTHER MAJOR THREAT
TO THE REGIME COULD TAKE SHAPE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
STEDMAN

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Message Attributes

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